1.(Currently Amended) A trigger mechanism for at least two fluorescent tubes connected to a common transformer circuit, comprising:

a backlight control circuit that receives a first current signal representative of the current flowing through a first fluorescent tube, and a second current signal representative of the current flowing through a second fluorescent tube~~, and adjustably sets a lamp current dependent upon whether the trigger mechanism is operating in day mode or night mode~~;

a switch that is configured and arranged to selectively shunt the outputs of the first and second tubes, where when ~~in the night mode~~ the switch is in a first position ~~closed and~~ the first and second current signals are shunted together and can be detected by the backlight control circuit jointly, and when the switch is in a second position the first and second current signals are not shunted together and ~~in the day mode the switch is open and~~ the first and second current signal are detected by the backlight control circuit separately from each other.

2.(Cancelled)

3.(Previously Presented) The trigger mechanism of claim 1, where the backlight control circuit upon detecting a drop below a minimum current value, reduces the lamp current and initiates a burst mode to produce an ignition.

4.(Currently Amended) The trigger mechanism of claim 1, where the control circuit is located within an integrated circuit that provides a PWM output signal to a MOSFET that provides, via a ~~the~~ common transformer circuit, a lamp current signal that is split to provide the

first and second current signals.

5.(Currently Amended) A fluorescent tube driver circuit, comprising:

a transformer network that provides a lamp current signal that is split to a first current signal and a second current signal;

a first current path that receives the first current signal, and includes a first ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a first fluorescent tube;

a second current path that receives the second current signal and is electrically parallel to the first current path, and includes a second ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a second fluorescent tube;

a switch that in a first position shunts the first and second current signals at a low voltage side of the first and second fluorescent tubes;

a backlight controller trigger mechanism, which includes a control circuit that receives the first current signal and the second current signal, ~~in a day operating mode the control circuit receives each of the first and second current signals~~ and sets the value of the lamp current signal~~, and in a night operating mode receives the first and second current signals that have been coupled together while operating in the night operating mode~~.

6.(Cancelled)

7.(Cancelled)

8.(Cancelled)

9.(Currently Amended) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 5~~8~~, where the switch comprises a semiconductor switch.

10.(Currently Amended) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 5~~8~~, where the control circuit comprises a dual cold cathode fluorescent lamp backlight inverter integrated circuit.

11.(Previously Presented) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 9, where the control circuit comprises a LT1768 integrated circuit.

12.(Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display backlight control circuit, comprising:

a transformer network that provides a lamp current signal that is split to a first current signal and a second current signal;

a first current path that receives the first current signal, and includes a first ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a first fluorescent lamp;

a second current path that receives the second current signal and is electrically parallel to the first current path, and includes a second ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a second fluorescent lamp;

double pole single throw semiconductor switch that in a first position shunts the first and second current signals at a low voltage side of the first and second fluorescent tubes; and

a backlight controller trigger mechanism that ~~in a day operating mode circuit~~ receives each of the first and second current signals and sets the value of the lamp current signal~~, and in a~~

~~night operating mode receives the first and second current signals that have been coupled together~~.

13.(Cancelled)

14.(Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display backlight control circuit of claim 12~~13~~, where the control circuit comprises a dual cold cathode fluorescent lamp backlight inverter integrated circuit.

15.(Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display backlight control circuit of claim 14, where the control circuit comprises a LT1768 integrated circuit.